

# **POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

NUMBER: 1310 SUBJECT: Dental Care Policy

ACA STANDARDS: 3-ALDF-4E-23

**DIRECTOR: Herbert Bernsen** 

**EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/97 REVISION DATE: 4/06, 5/08, 10/12** 

### I. POLICY

The St. Louis County Department of Justice Services, in cooperation with the St. Louis County Department of Health, will provide inmates access to dental services while housed in the Justice Center.

#### II. RESPONSIBILITIES

All St. Louis County Department of Justice Services' Corrections staff, Corrections Medicine staff and Dental staff are responsible for the following procedures.

#### III. PROCEDURES

#### A. General Information

- 1. The St. Louis County Department of Health provides a Dentist(s) to provide in-house dental care to the inmates in the Justice Center.
- 2. The St. Louis County Department of Justice Services, in cooperation with the Department of Health, will provide the following dental care for the inmates in the Justice Center.
  - **a.** Corrections Medicine staff on duty twenty-four (24) hours a day.

- **b.** Dental services will be provided at least three (3) days a week.
- **c.** The Health Care Clinic will have a dental office.
- 3. Dental judgment is the responsibility of the Corrections Medicine staff and the Department of Health Dentist(s).
- 4. The Corrections Medicine staff will schedule inmates on Dental Sick Call on an 'as needed' basis. Emergency treatment will take priority.
- 5. Inmate dental services shall be primarily for the relief of pain which may include:
  - **a.** Examinations
  - **b.** Limited x-rays
  - **c.** Extractions
  - **d.** Filling cavities
  - **e.** Other procedures as found necessary by the dentist.
- 6. Arrangements will be made by the dentist and approved by the Department of Health for outside consultation or services with dental specialists or oral surgeons, when necessary. (See Policy #1319 Inmate Transport to Community Clinics)
- 7. The Corrections Medicine staff will distribute medication on a daily basis. (See Policy #1312 Medication Distribution)
- 8. The Corrections Medicine staff will arrange all movement of inmates to clinics and hospitals through the Transportation Supervisor or Watch Commander. (See Policy #1319 Inmate Movement to Community Clinics, or Policy #1318 Emergency Movement to Hospital)
- 9. Dental records will be maintained for all procedures conducted and considered confidential.
- 10. All dental services provided to inmates are subject to a fee to be

deducted from the inmate's commissary account. (See Policy #1320 Inmate Medical Fees)

11. Arrangements for dental services may be made for juveniles housed in the Family Court Center.

## B. Emergency Dental Procedures

- 1. If the inmate is experiencing tooth pain, the Corrections Medicine staff will assess the inmate and initiate the Dental Care Protocol.
- 2. If the inmate is involved in a physical altercation or accident resulting in injury to the jaw, mouth, or oral cavity, the inmate may be transported to the contracted or nearest emergency room depending on his/her physical status.